

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a ~~neurodegenerative disease~~ NeuroAIDS in a mammal, which method comprises assaying the copy number of a ~~*Cripto-1* gene~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 or the expression level of a ~~*Cripto-1* gene product~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 in the central nervous system of the mammal, wherein the presence of NeuroAIDS in the mammal is indicated by (a) an amplification of the *Cripto-1* gene SEQ ID NO: 1 or an overexpression (b) expression of the *Cripto-1* gene product SEQ ID NO: 1 at levels at least 2.5 times greater than expression of SEQ ID NO:1 in a control sample is indicative of a neurodegenerative disease in the mammal.

2.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting progression of a neurodegenerative disease in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal an agent that inhibits *Cripto-1* in an amount effective to inhibit *Cripto-1* in the central nervous system of the mammal, whereupon the progression of the neurodegenerative disease is inhibited.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of NeuroAIDS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and encephalitis.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a human.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide that hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a *Cripto-1* protein.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a *Cripto-1* protein.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a peptide that specifically binds to a *Cripto-1* protein.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the agent is a mutant *Cripto-1* protein.

14. (Withdrawn) An isolated or purified oligonucleotide consisting essentially of the sequence of AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) or AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises assaying the expression level of ~~the *Cripto-1* gene product~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the mammal is a human.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the method comprises using a cDNA array and/or comprises non-quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein RT-PCR is carried out with oligonucleotide probes consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) and AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the expression level of ~~a *Cripto-1* gene product~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 is assayed from cerebrospinal fluid obtained from the mammal.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises assaying the copy number of the *Cripto-1* gene.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of NeuroAIDS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, and encephalitis.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises using a cDNA array and/or comprises non-quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein RT-PCR is carried out with oligonucleotide probes consisting essentially of the nucleotide sequences AAGCTATGGACTGCAGGAAGATGG (SEQ ID NO: 3) and AGAAAGGCAGATGCCAACTAGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the copy number of the *Cripto-1* gene product is assayed from cerebrospinal fluid obtained from the mammal.